

James Z. Wang
Reginald B. Adams, Jr. *Editors*

Modeling Visual Aesthetics, Emotion, and Artistic Style

 Springer

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We dedicate this book to our families, whose love and support have been our constant source of strength and inspiration throughout the entire editing process.

James and Reg

Foreword

Over millennia, people have learned both overt behaviors and more subtle cues to communicate to one another. Anthropological motivations abound, from the need to survive, to protect one's community, and to secure and exploit resources. Along the evolutionary path, people had to interact with others. Even before the emergence of languages, humans had to sense, read, and assign meaning, mostly instantaneously, to observed and perceived facial expressions, body gestures, and actions. Whatever physiological processes were responsible for these abilities, they are now embedded in our genetic makeup and allow children to acquire, learn, and ascribe meaning to social environments.

Over the past century or so, first psychologists, and then computer scientists, began quantitative studies and experiments to try to understand how socially communicative behaviors arose. Fundamental questions about human perception and how sensory systems might be “wired” dominated pre-computational studies. When computers, visual sensors, and displays emerged to support scientific endeavors, new foci arose on linking synthetic perception, algorithmic models of social phenomena, and generalized mechano-robotic and graphical generation of social signals. In other words, the era of synthesized virtual humans began.

I was extremely fortunate to be able to participate in and contribute to this new field from my PhD thesis at the University of Toronto in 1974 up to the present. By 1990, there were several robust research communities interested in human perception, robotics, computer vision, and computer graphics. David Zeltzer of MIT, Brian Barsky of the University of California at Berkeley, and myself from the University of Pennsylvania, organized a “Workshop on the Mechanics, Control and Animation of Articulated Figures” held at the MIT Media Lab in April 1989. We invited participants from multiple perspectives to share their thoughts on humans and their virtual or robotic embodiments. This successful cross-disciplinary meeting led to the first book in 1990—*Making Them Move: Mechanics, Control and Animation of Articulated Figures*—to encompass these disparate but ultimately deeply connected viewpoints.

This volume on *Modeling Visual Aesthetics, Emotion, and Artistic Style*, thoughtfully curated by James Z. Wang and Reginald B. Adams, Jr., is a perfect bookend

to that earlier *Making Them Move* collection. Human behavior observation has been dramatically enabled by low-cost, high-resolution image acquisition hardware feeding real-time computer vision motion analysis systems. Computer virtual human simulation and computer graphics have evolved to the point where non-real-time movie actors, characters, and monsters are produced with efficiency and regularity by the movie and game industry, while real-time human agents are now taking on public roles as announcers, influencers, and assistants. Their ubiquity has fostered artistic interest and study of the human aesthetic. Driving the range of contemporary applications are new tools from the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning research communities. We could perhaps only dream about these in 1990. They are the new foundation for human perception and simulation research.

With modern computational tools and decades of computer graphics simulations to build on, additional fascinating aspects of human communication can be studied, modeled, and reproduced. Human emotions, and their companion attributes of mood and personality expressed by face and gesture, have long been of interest to multiple research communities, including the social sciences as well as the computational ones. This volume addresses emotional displays and understanding, including novel dimensions such as threats, which are of clear evolutionary value. As its title aptly describes, this volume also includes new considerations of aesthetics and artistic style. Critical questions of bias and sexual discrimination must be addressed as learning systems depend on datasets that might, inadvertently or naively, perpetuate stereotypes, cultural misconceptions, or prejudices. The maturity of the underlying computational foundations now admits these humanistic questions. A number of works in this volume explore this space of unique human characteristics.

James and Reg have assembled an outstanding collection of current approaches to modeling novel human dimensions. It will be a classic of interdisciplinary computational studies. Enjoy!

Haverford, PA, USA
June 2023

Norman I. Badler

Preface

Visual aesthetics, emotional expression, and artistic style are essential components of human perception and experience, and their significance has only grown with the increasing prevalence of digital media and technologies. The ability to computationally model and analyze these complex concepts has been a longstanding goal in the fields of computer vision, affective computing, and robotics. This timely book represents the collective efforts of active researchers from a diverse set of fields, including computer vision, robotics, psychology, graphics, data mining, machine learning, movement analysis, and art history, who have come together to address these challenging and critical research questions. As our world becomes more interconnected and reliant on digital platforms and artificial intelligence, understanding and effectively utilizing these aspects of human experience has become increasingly important, making this book a vital resource for both researchers and practitioners alike.

The chapters of this book cover a wide range of topics related to the computational modeling of aesthetics, emotion, and artistic style. The first part provides background knowledge related to emotion models and machine learning. The next two parts explore social visual perception in humans and its application to computer vision. Specifically, Part **II** lays the groundwork by discussing the basic psychological and neurological underpinnings of social and emotional perception from faces and bodies. Part **III** extends this understanding into the realm of technology, demonstrating methods to train computer systems to detect discrete and micro-momentary emotional expressions from facial and body cues, question the notion of facial neutrality, and broaden the scope of research to include children as well as adults in the context of emotion perception. Part **IV** focuses on the dynamic intersection of art and technology, shedding light on the language of photography, the interplay between breath-driven robotic performances and human dance, and the application of machine learning in the contextual analysis of artistic style. The remaining three parts dive deeper into the computational modeling of visual aesthetics, emotion, and artistic style.

One of the unique features of this book is its multidisciplinary approach, bringing together contributions from various domains, such as computer science, psychology,

art history, and cognitive science. This interdisciplinary approach fosters a more holistic understanding of the subject matter and encourages cross-disciplinary collaboration, leading to novel insights and advancements in the field.

The versatile nature of the book format has enabled us to encompass an array of contribution types. These include comprehensive tutorials and reviews of theoretical frameworks and computational methodologies, extensive literature surveys, novel methodological approaches, in-depth case studies, insightful opinion pieces, rigorous empirical investigations, and comparative analyses.

Another feature of this book is its focus on cutting-edge research. The methods and information presented in this book represent the latest developments in the field and have the potential to significantly advance the field. The comprehensive and in-depth treatment of topics offered by book chapters provides a richer understanding of the subject for readers, which can be especially beneficial for those new to a new interdisciplinary field or those looking to expand their knowledge.

Finally, the impact of the results presented in the book can be far-reaching. The ability to computationally model aesthetics, emotion, and artistic style has the potential to enable many computer and robotic applications that can benefit millions of people around the world. From children needing care to the elderly needing assistance, from amateur photographers to people working alongside robots, the impact of this work is broad.

We trust that this book will serve as a valuable resource for researchers, practitioners, educators, and students who are interested in advancing the field. The cross-disciplinary nature of the book increases the chances of a wider audience accessing the research, leading to broader dissemination and long-term recognition of the presented findings. We hope that this book will inspire further research, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and contribute to the advancement of computational modeling of visual aesthetics, emotion, and artistic style.

State College, PA, USA
June 2023

James Z. Wang
Reginald B. Adams, Jr.

Acknowledgments

First and foremost, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to our colleagues who contributed their invaluable expertise, knowledge, and insights to this book. Their dedication and commitment to advancing this field have substantially enriched the content and elevated the overall quality of this work. It has been a privilege to collaborate with such an accomplished and diverse assembly of researchers in this endeavor.

We convey our sincere appreciation to the editorial team at Springer Nature for their steadfast support, professionalism, and guidance throughout the publication process. Their invaluable feedback and constructive suggestions have played an important role in shaping the final product. Special thanks go to our editor, Susan E. Grove, and project coordinator, Arun S. Shanmugam, for their relentless enthusiasm and encouragement, which motivated us to strive for excellence in our work. Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude to the anonymous reviewers for their valuable insights and constructive feedback on our book proposal.

We deeply appreciate Norman Badler for his insightful Foreword. His rich experiences have helped contextualize the evolution of our field, emphasizing the roles of artificial intelligence and machine learning in human perception and simulation research. His emphasis on addressing issues like bias and cultural misconceptions in learning systems is invaluable.

We would also like to thank our academic mentors, advisees, colleagues, and collaborators who have inspired and supported our research over the years. Their expertise, encouragement, and friendship have been essential in the development of our understanding and passion for the field. In particular, J. Z. Wang is grateful to Gio Wiederhold, Dennis A. Hejhal, Martin A. Fischler, and Edward H. Shortliffe for their invaluable guidance, wisdom, and belief in his potential. He is also grateful for the support and encouragement received from Adam Fineberg, Yelin Kim, Tatiana D. Korelsky, and Juan P. Wachs. R. B. Adams, Jr. is particularly grateful to Robert E. Kleck, Ursula Hess, and Nalini Ambady for their early mentorship and encouragement. He is also grateful to all his colleagues in psychology and vision science who have helped him champion the field of Social Vision. Finally, he is grateful to J. Z. Wang for spearheading this book, for collaboration over the years

extending his own work in new directions, and enabling him to apply insights from social visual perception to this burgeoning field of computer vision.

Our deepest appreciation goes to the countless artists and creators whose work has inspired and fueled our research. Their artistic expressions and creative pursuits provide the foundation for our exploration of this fascinating field.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF) under Grant Nos. 1110970, 1921783, and 2234195, which has been instrumental in advancing the research presented in this book. This funding has enabled us to pursue innovative research directions, collaborate with leading experts, and ultimately contribute to the growing body of knowledge in this field. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSF. Additionally, J. Z. Wang extends his sincere appreciation to the Amazon Research Awards program for their gift, which has further bolstered the research of his team and facilitated the development of cutting-edge methodologies and technologies. His team's research in visual art has been supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) under Grant Nos. HAA-271801-20 and HAA-287938-22. His team's research in machine learning has been supported in part by the NSF under Grant Nos. 2205004 and 2216127. We are immensely grateful for the confidence and investment these organizations have placed in our work, and we strive to continue making meaningful contributions to this exciting and dynamic field.

Last but not least, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our family and friends for their constant love, support, and encouragement. Their belief in our abilities, patience with our countless hours of work, and persistent understanding have been the bedrock of our endeavors. Without them, this book would not have been possible. J. Z. Wang would like to especially thank Jia Li and their children Justina and Nora Wang for their inspiration and consistent understanding. Similarly, R. B. Adams, Jr. thanks Katharine Donnelly Adams as well as their children Henry and Lena Logan Adams for their understanding and encouragement throughout the process of putting this book together.

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Contributors

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Franz Götz-Hahn is currently working as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Intelligent Embedded Systems group at the University of Kassel, where he heads the AI for Motion research group. He received his M.Sc. in Artificial Intelligence from Maastricht University, Netherlands and the Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Konstanz, Germany with his thesis titled “Video Quality Assessment in-the-wild.” Franz’s dissertation was the culmination of pioneering work in the field of deep learning for image and video quality assessment, including the (co-)authorship of KonVid-1k and KonVid-150k, two of the most influential and largest in-the-wild video quality datasets to date. Recently, he has expanded his expertise beyond image and video quality toward using artificial intelligence more generally in domains involving motion, such as in automotive.

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Hanjoo Kim is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Program, University of Michigan. He obtained a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from The Pennsylvania State University and completed an APA-accredited psychology internship at the New Mexico VA/Southwest Consortium. His primary research interests center around the “underlying mechanisms” of emotional disorders, including anxiety, unipolar depression, and bipolar spectrum disorders. Currently, his research focuses on understanding the emotion dysregulation processes involved in repetitive negative thoughts, such as worry and rumination. To investigate this topic, he is utilizing various psychophysiological methodologies, such as skin conductance, emotional facial expressions, and heart rate variability, alongside intensive longitudinal data analysis.

Kestutis Kveraga is an Assistant Professor at the Harvard Medical School and an Assistant in Neuroscience at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He is a cognitive neuroscientist who studies the neural mechanisms of threat perception from naturalistic stimuli, with strong interests in visual pathway function and autism. He is also interested in neural aesthetics and how brain activity can be employed to predict and shape architectural design and art. He has expertise in neuroimaging methods, such as structural and functional MRI (including ultra-high-field high-resolution 7T fMRI), MEG and EEG, psychophysical techniques (eye and limb tracking, visual pathway biasing), and brain connectivity analyses (e.g., Dynamic Causal Modeling and biomagnetic phase synchrony).

Kate Ladenheim is a choreographer, media designer, and creative technologist who researches bodies in motion and how they impact and are impacted by systems of social and technological pressure. Her work has been presented internationally and spans interactive installations, media design, dance performance, and robotics research. Ladenheim holds an M.F.A. in Media Design Practices from ArtCenter College of Design. She recently assisted robotics research at UCLA, and was the 2019–2020 Artist in Residence at the Robotics, Automation, & Dance (RAD) Lab at UIUC. Her work was celebrated in *Dance Magazine* as one of their “25 to Watch” and “Best of 2018.” She is the current Artist in Residence at the Maya Brin Institute for New Performance, a faculty role at the University of Maryland—College Park.

Amy LaViers is the Director of the Robotics, Automation, and Dance (RAD) Lab. Her choreography and machine designs have been presented internationally, includ-

ing at Joe's Pub at the Public Theater and the Performance Arcade. Her writing has appeared in academic journals like *Nature* and *Robotics and Autonomous Systems* as well as public venues like American Scientist and Aeon. She is a recipient of DARPA's Young Faculty Award (YFA), and her teaching has been recognized on the list of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students, with outstanding distinction, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). She has held positions as a co-founder of three start-up companies and as an engineering faculty member at UIUC and the University of Virginia. She holds a CMA from the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies, a Ph.D. and M.S. from Georgia Institute of Technology, and a B.S.E. and certificate in Dance from Princeton University.

Jia Li is a Professor of Statistics and (by courtesy) Computer Science at The Pennsylvania State University. Her research interests include machine learning and image analysis. For her innovations in image retrieval, annotation, aesthetics/composition analysis, and other areas, she has been awarded sixteen US patents. She worked as a Program Director at the National Science Foundation from 2011 to 2013, a Visiting Scientist at Google Labs in Pittsburgh from 2007 to 2008, and a Researcher at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center from 1999 to 2000. She received an M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering (1995), an M.Sc. degree in Statistics (1998), and a Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering (1999) from Stanford University. She was Editor-in-Chief of *Statistical Analysis and Data Mining: The ASA Data Science Journal* from 2018 to 2020. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

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QT Luong is a former computer vision researcher with positions at the University of California, Berkeley, and SRI International turned freelance photographer. His Ph.D. thesis, "Fundamental Matrix and Self-calibration," introduced concepts that spawned a decade of research. The resulting 1992 European Conference on Computer Vision paper "Camera self-calibration: Theory and experiments" (with O. Faugeras and S. Maybank) won the inaugural Koenderink Prize for Fundamental Contributions in Computer Vision in 2008. He is the coauthor (with O. Faugeras) of the book *The Geometry of Multiple Images* (MIT Press 2001/2004). Luong was the first to photograph all of America's 63 national parks—in large format.

He received the Sierra Club's Ansel Adams Award for Photography and the National Parks Conservation Association's Robin W. Winks Award for Enhancing Public Understanding of National Parks. His best-selling book *Treasured Lands: A Photographic Odyssey Through America's National Parks* (2016) won 12 national and international book awards.

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Acronyms

AAM	Active Appearance Model
ACG	Attributed Composition Graph
ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
ACM	Association for Computing Machinery
ADTA	American Dance Therapy Association
AEI	Artificial Emotional Intelligence
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AMT	Amazon Mechanical Turk
ANE	Apple Neural Engine
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
APA	American Psychological Association
ARO	Army Research Office
ASA	American Statistical Association
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorders
ASM	Active Shape Model
AU	Action Unit
AUC	Area Under the Curve
AUC ROC	Area Under the Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve
BEEU	Bodily Expressed Emotion Understanding
BRISQUE	Blind/Referenceless Image Spatial Quality Evaluator
BoLD	Body Language Dataset
CMA	Certified Movement Analyst
CNN	Convolutional Neural Network
COCO	Common Objects in Context
CRI	Child-Robot Interaction
CT-MC	Continuous Time Markov Chain
DARPA	Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
DCT	Discrete Cosine Transform
DNN	Deep Neural Network
DSLr	Digital Single-Lens Reflex
DT-MC	Discrete Time Markov Chain

EDR	Endpoint Detection and Response
EEG	Electroencephalography
EMFACS	Emotion Facial Action Coding System
FACS	Facial Action Coding System
fMRI	Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging
FPS	Frame-per-Second
GAN	Generative Adversarial Network
GPT	Generative Pre-trained Transformer
GPU	Graphics Processing Unit
HDR	High Dynamic Range
HEIC	High Efficiency Image Container
HICEM	High-Coverage Emotion Model
HRI	Human-Robot Interaction
HSI	Hue, Saturation, Intensity
I/O	Input and Output
IAA	Image Aesthetics Assessment
IQA	Image Quality Assessment
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
ISP	Image Signal Processor
JPEG/JPG	Joint Photographic Experts Group
LBMS	Laban/Bartenieff Movement System
LDA	Latent Dirichlet Allocation
LMA	Laban Movement Analysis
MEG	Magnetoencephalography
ML	Machine Learning
MP	McCulloch-Pitts
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
MSE	Mean Squared Error
NIQE	Natural Image Quality Evaluator
NLP	Natural Language Processing
NSF	National Science Foundation
OCEAN	Openness, Conscientiousness, Extroversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
PAD	Pleasure, Arousal, and Dominance
PCA	Principal Component Analysis
PLD	Point-Light Display
PSNR	Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio
RAM	Random-Access Memory
RBF	Radial Basis Function
RGB	Red, Green, and Blue
RYB	Red, Yellow, and Blue
SES	Socio-Economic Status
SVM	Support Vector Machine
SVR	Support Vector Regression

TUPI	Ten Item Personality Inventory
TSN	Temporal Segment Network
UI/UX	User Interface and User Experience
VAD	Valence, Arousal, and Dominance
VR	Virtual Reality

Part I

Foundations of Emotion Modeling and Machine Learning

Because this book is multidisciplinary in nature, this part will provide essential knowledge on emotion models and machine learning fundamentals.

Chapter 1, “Models of Human Emotion and Artificial Emotional Intelligence,” aims to bridge the gap between emotion models used in psychology and their application in affective computing tasks. It surveys existing emotion models in psychology, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses for computational tasks involving human emotion.

Chapter 2, “A Concise Introduction to Machine Learning,” offers a fundamental understanding of machine learning techniques relevant to the theme of the book. This chapter serves as a starting point for readers with limited or no relevant expertise. It introduces learning algorithms, basic concepts, and fundamental principles in machine learning systems.

These chapters serve as a valuable foundation for readers interested in emotion modeling and the application of machine learning in aesthetics, emotion, and artistic style. By familiarizing themselves with emotion models and understanding the basics of machine learning, readers can better comprehend and engage with recent research in these areas presented in the rest of the book and beyond.

Chapter 1

Models of Human Emotion and Artificial Emotional Intelligence



Benjamin Wortman

Abstract This chapter bridges the gap between emotion models popular in psychology and their use in affective computing tasks. Emotion modeling has a long and varied history with several competing schools of thought. Here, through a survey of existing literature, we cover existing emotion models popular in psychology, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of these different approaches in regard to computational tasks involving human emotion.

1.1 Introduction

As an interdisciplinary field, affective computing sits at the corner of psychology and computing. This field has seen exponential growth in recent years¹ in tandem with the rise of Deep Learning and the creation of large scale datasets for training [10, 22, 33, 40, 51]. Although historically the focus has been on developing algorithms and techniques to help machines recognize and respond to human emotion, these technologies are underpinned by models in psychology. This is important to understand when transitioning to real-world settings as ultimately a machine-learning model is limited by the usefulness of the underlying emotion model. For example, Ekman's universal basic emotions [24] has long been the dominant model used for comparison in this field. In a lab setting, this has several benefits such as its ease of use and cross-cultural relevance. However, given it only consists of 7 emotions, this narrow coverage makes it difficult to develop real-world applications with high enough fidelity to accurately describe the wide variety of emotional states that humans present.

¹ Over 14,000 emotion recognition papers since 2010 according to IEEE Xplore.

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